

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 907

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

COMAC SCOTT AFB IL

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

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COMAC AND CINCLANT FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PO

SUBJ: EXPRESSO COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO US

COMMENT: EXPRESSO HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF COSTA GOMES  
VISIT TO STATES GIVING IT SAME SIGNIFICANCE AS APRIL 25  
AND SEP 28, UNDERLINES IMPORTANCE OF COSTA GOMES  
SUPPORT FOR ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, AND SUGGESTS USSR DOES  
NOT WISH CONFRONTATION WITH US OVER PORTUGAL AND  
THEREFORE UNLIKELY TO BE ALTERNATE SOURCE OF AID.

1. PRESTIGIOUS WEEKLY, EXPRESSO, CARRIED FULL PAGE  
STORY ON PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES' VISIT TO US. BECAUSE  
OF EXPRESSO'S INFLUENCE AND ITS DISTINCTIVE VIEWS ON  
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THE TRIP WE GIVE FOLLOWING SYNOPSIS:

2. ARTICLE STARTS BY EQUATING IMPORTANCE OF OCT 20, DATE OF PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES RETURN TO PORTUGAL AFTER US VISIT, WITH APRIL 25 AND SEP 28, NOTING THAT THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT PORTUGAL HAS BEEN AND IS A LINK IN AMERICAN WORLDWIDE CHAIN, BOTH FROM ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STANDPOINT.

3. ARTICLE STATES THAT KISSINGER, ALARMED BY SEP 28 SENT A SPECIAL FOUR MAN COMMISSION TO PORTUGAL TO REPORT ON WHICH POLITICAL PATH WAS GOING TO BE FOLLOWED. KISSINGER SHOWED BY THIS GESTURE "THAT HE DID NOT SUFFICIENTLY TRUST THE SERVICES OF HIS EMBASSY IN LISBON, WHICH CERTAINLY WAS PUNCTUALLY SENDING THE ESSENCE OF THE SITUATION." "THIS REPORT PAINTED PORTUGAL IN BLACK OR, BETTER SAID, IN RED, VERY CLOSE TO A POPULAR DICTATORSHIP." "WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND OUT THROUGH AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES THAT DESERVE FULL CONFIDENCE THAT MOBUTOU HAS A COPY OF THE REPORT."

4. EXPRESSO REPORTS THAT BOTH THE FORMAL COMMUNIQUE AND COSTA GOMES' LISBON ARRIVAL STATEMENT COULD JUST AS WELL HAVE RESULTED FROM A VISIT TO US BY SPINOLA -- EXCEPT THAT WITHOUT SEP 28, THE MAN WHO TRAVELED TO US WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE "UNCONTESTED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE."

5. ARTICLE QUOTED AGAIN FROM COSTA GOMES NOW FAMOUS LISBON ARRIVAL STATEMENT CONCERNING THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, IN WHICH HE SAID "THAT WE HAVE A POSITION THAT OBLIGES US TO TAKE ONE OPTION, AND I JUDGE THAT THE OPTION SELECTED (ADHERENCE TO NATO) IS THE ONE WHICH IS ABSOLUTELY APPROPRIATE TO OUR SITUATION, OUR WAY OF THINKING, AND TO THE WISHES OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE." EXPRESSO COMMENTS THAT WITH THE REALISM THAT CHARACTERIZES HIM, COSTA GOMES SAW THAT THIS WAS THE ONLY VIABLE SOLUTION WITHIN THE EQUILIBRIUM OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FORCES.

6. ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY NOTING THAT PORTUGAL'S OPTIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE LIMITED. LEAVING NATO AND CANCELLING THE LAJES ACCORD WOULD MEAN RECOURSE TO USSR FOR ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, FINANCIAL, AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT. HOWEVER, THE SOVIET UNION WILL NOT BE INTERESTED IN A CONFRONTATION WITH THE AMERICANS WHICH IS LIKELY TO JEOPARDIZE ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US ON ARMS LIMITATION, WHEAT, AND MOST FAVORED NATION STATUS. THUS, IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR THE CIA TO MOUNT A COUP

OR COUNTER-REVOLUTION IN PORTUGAL.

7. COMMENT: THE EXPRESSO ARTICLE IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT UNDERSCORES THE BIG IMPACT COSTA GOMES' ARRIVAL COMMENTS ON THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE HAVE HAD ON OPINION LEADERS HERE AND IT EMPHASIZES THE INHERENT LEGITIMACY COSTA GOMES IS BELIEVED TO ENJOY IN HIS POST BECAUSE OF HIS WIDESPREAD APPEAL BOTH AMONG THE PEOPLE AND THE ELITES.

8. IN PREDICTING THAT USSR WOULD NOT BE VIABLE ALTERNATIVE AS PROVIDER OF AID, EXPRESSO IS VOICING AN ANALYSIS WHICH IS INCREASINGLY DISCUSSED AND ACCEPTED HERE -- AN ANALYSIS WHICH DOES NO HARM TO OUR NEGOTIATING POSITION ON THE LAJES BASE, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, TENDS TO ADD TO THE PICTURE ACCEPTED BY SOME PORTUGUESE OF A BENIGN, RESPONSIBLE, HANDS-OFF STANCE ON THE PART OF THE COMMUNISTS.  
SCOTT

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